

Message Text

SECRET

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47

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 H-01 INR-05 IO-10 L-02 NSC-05 SP-02 PRS-01

RSC-01 SS-15 USSS-00 SY-04 FAA-00 WRD-01 SCA-01 SCS-03

OC-01 /085 W

----- 090260

Z 231515Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 7505

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

USDEL VLADIVOSTOK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TUNIS 7227

TOKYO AND VLADIVOSTOK FOR SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS EG SF OGEN

SUBJECT: HIJACKED VC-10

REF: SECSTATE 259242; CAIRO 9489

1. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAS CONVEYED TO US SAME INFORMATION
CONTAINED REFTELS. FIVE TERRORISTS BEING BROUGHT FROM CAIRO
ARE FROM ABU NIDAL GROUP, WITH KHARTOUM ASSASSINS REMAINING
BEHIND. UPON ARRIVAL IN TUNIS, FIVE TERRORISTS, PLUS

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HIJACKERS, WILL BE FLOWN TO BAGHDAD ON SAME VC-QP WITH FRESH CREW.

AIRCRAFT CARRYING CAIRO-HELD TERRORISTS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE
TUNIS 1730 LOCAL. AGREEMENT EVIDENTLY STIMULATED BY
BELKHODJA'S URGING THAT THE HIJACKERS COME UP WITH COMPROMISE
PROPOSITION, FOLLOWING WHICH ABU IYAD WAS SCHEDULED TO GO TO AIRCRAFT
TO WORK OUT DETAILS WITH HIJACKERS.

2. MINISTER OF INTERIOR HAS REQUESTED OUR GUIDANCE ON
HOW BEST TO EFFECT SUCCESSFUL EXCHANGE INSURING THAT ALL
PASSENGERS ARE RELEASED. IF DEPARTMENT HAS ANY IDEAS ON THIS
SCORE, NEED THEM URGENTLY.

3. HAVE JUST RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
INDICATING THAT HIJACKERS ARE INSISTING THAT IRAQUI AND PERHAPS
ALSO LIBYAN AMBASSADORS ACCOMPANY AIRCRAFT TO BAGHDAD. EVIDENTLY
WHILE ABU IYAD HELPED PRODUCE COMPROMISE, HIJACKERS HAVE LITTLE
CONFIDENCES IN HIM AND HAVE REJECTED PROPOSAL THAT HE ACCOMPANY
AIRCRAFT. IRAQUI AND PERHAPS LIBYAN AMBASSADORS ARE BEING
REQUESTED TO "GUARANTEE" THAT EXCHANGE OPERATES SMOOTHLY.

4. CRAIG INFORMS ME THAT FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI HAS ASKED
DUTCH TO MAKE AVAILABLE "IF NEEDED" TWO PALESTINIAN
TERRORISTS IN DUTCH CUSTODY. CHATTI SEEMS TO THINK THAT THEY
MAY BE NEEDED TO CLINCH DEAL, BUT NOT RPT NOT CLEAR WHETHER
THIS IS MERELY HIS IDEA OR WHETHER HIJACKERS HAVE MADE THIS
ADDITIONAL DEMAND.
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Message Attributes

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